

*of Henrie the fourth.*

*Falst.* You rogue, heeres lime in this sacke too: there is nothing but rogerie to be found in villanous man, yet a coward is worie then a cup of sacke with lime in it. A villanous coward, Go thy waies old Iacke, die when thou wilt, if manhood, good manhood be not forgot vpon the face of the earth, then am I a shotten herring: there liues not three good men vnhangde in England, and one of them is fat, and growes old, God helpe the while, a bad world I say, I would I were a weauer. I could sing psalmes, or any thing. A plague of all cowards I say still.

*Prin.* How now Wolfacke, what mutter you?

*Falst.* A kings sonne, if I do not beat thee out of thy kingdom with a dagger of lath, and driue all thy subiects afore thee like a flock of wild geese, ile neuer weare haire on my face more, you prince of Wales.

*Prin.* Why you horeson round-man, whats the matter?

*Falst.* Are not you a coward? aunswere mee to that, and Poinces there,

*Poin.* Zoundes ye fat paunch, and ye call me coward by the Lord ile stab thee.

*Falst.* I call thee coward, ile see thee damnde ere I call thee coward, but I would giue a thousand pound I could runne as fast as thou canst. You are streight enough in the shoulders, you care not who sees your backe: call you that backing of your friends, a plague vpon such backing, giue me them that will face me, giue me a cup of sacke. I am a rogue if I drunke to day.

*Prin.* O villain, thy lips are scarce wipt since thou drunkest last.

*Falst.* All is one for that. *He drinketh.*

A plague of all cowards still say I.

*Prin.* Whats the matter?

*Falst.* Whats the matter, there be foure of vs here haue tane a thousand pound this day morning

*Prin.* Where is it Iacke, where is it?

*Fal.* Where is it? taken from vs it is: a hundred vpon poore foure of vs.

*Prin.* What, a hundred, man?

*Falst.* I am a rogue if I were not at halfe sword with a douzen of them two houres together. I haue scapt by myracle. I am eight times thrust through the doublet, foure through the hose, my

*The Historie.*

my buckler cut through and through, my sworde hackt like a hand saw, *ecce signum.* I neuer dealt better since I was a man, al would not do. A plague of all cowards, let them speake, if they speake more or lesse then truth, they are villains, and the sonnes of darknesse.

*Gad* Speake sirs, how was it?

*Ross.* We foure set vpon some douzen.

*Falst.* Sixteene at least my Lord.

*Ross.* And bound them.

*Peto.* No, no, they were not bound.

*Falst.* You rogue they were bounde euerie man of them, or I am a Iew else: an Ebrew Iew.

*Ross.* As we were sharing, some fixe or seuen fresh men set vpon vs.

*Falst.* And vnbound the rest, and then come in the other.

*Prin.* What, fought you with them all?

*Falst.* Al, I know not what you cal al, but if I fought not with fiftie of them I am a bunch of radish: if there were not two or three and fiftie vpon poore olde Iacke, then am I no two legd Creature.

*Prin.* Pray God you haue not mured some of them.

*Falst.* Nay, thats past praying for, I haue pepperd two of them. Two I am sure I haue paied, two rogues in buckrom suites: I tel thee what Hal, if I tell thee a lie, spit in my face; call me horse, thou knowest my olde warde: here I lay, and thus I bore my poynt, foure rogues in Buckrom let driue at me.

*Prin.* What foure? thou saidst but two euen now.

*Falst.* Foure Hal, I told thee foure.

*Poin.* I, I he said foure.

*Fal.* These foure came all a front, and mainely thrust at me, I made me no more adoe, but tooke all their seuen points in my target, thus.

*Prin.* Seuen, why there were but foure euen now.

*Falst.* In Buckrom.

*Po.* I foure in Buckrom suites.

*Falst.* Seuen by these hilts, or I am a villaine else.

*Pr.* Pree the let him alone, we shall haue more anon.

*Falst.* Doeft thou heare me Hal?

*Prin.*